



## Office for Ministry with Youth

Archdiocese of Philadelphia

### NFCYM Fundraising Basics

- Discuss fundraisers with the pastor/pastoral administrator and finance director.
- Make sure to keep the pastoral/administrative staff involved. They may even be able to help you out along the way.
- Discuss the group fundraising goal.
- There might be significant limitations on the type of fundraisers allowed by the parish. Be sure to gather this information before any additional planning.
- Identify an adult or form a team of adults that will spearhead fundraising efforts.
- What types of fundraising do we want to do? Selling/service, etc. It is acceptable to have fundraisers that involve individual sales such as selling candy or wreaths. However, fundraising efforts should avoid door-to-door sales by youth as there are safety concerns.
- Are youth allowed to raise all the money needed for the pilgrimage or is there an earnings cap? (Note: past experience indicates that requiring a financial commitment from participants helps to ensure that they will not back out of the pilgrimage at the last minute.)
- What happens if the goal is not reached? What happens to the extra money if the goal is exceeded?
- Create a plan with your finance director about how funds raised can be carried over to benefit the youth beyond the current fiscal year. This is an important discussion to have so that funds raised will not be lost before the conference date.

### Reminders for You and Your Young People

**Set Expectations of Your Teens:** Make sure your teens know what is expected of them. You are raising money for them so they should be part of the fundraising efforts. If they cannot be part of the main event, see if there are behind the scenes actions they could do to still help out, like make decorations, posters, social media posts, or help with set-up. Keep a record of who helped and when.

**Make it Easy and Fun:** If it's too difficult, it makes it hard to participate. Break down tasks in a clear, easy way so they can understand. For example: don't just say, "Make a poster." Elaborate. "We are making a poster to let those who are attending the fish fry know what we will use their donations for, so make sure to include where we are going, what we are looking forward to, and who is going. Don't forget to say, "Thank you!" Teens are more likely to participate and help if it is fun for them. Include them in on decision making when planning fundraising activities.

**Take Pictures:** For your own archives but also to post online. After getting permission from their parents, post to parish social media to show what the teens are doing and why they are doing it.

**Celebrate Goals:** As you meet your fundraising goals, celebrate! Fundraising can be a long process, so as you meet those goals, take a moment to rest and celebrate your progress.

**See Who Can Help:** Reach out to other parish ministries and organizations to see if they can help. Some community organizations or businesses are also willing to help, such as allowing you to advertise in their place of business or by giving you a discount on items you need for your fundraising. It never hurts to ask! Also, you might have people in your parish who are awesome at fundraising. Ask them for help.

**Practice:** Take time to practice with your teens their elevator speech on why you are fundraising. Practice helps so they are prepared when someone asks, "Why are you raising money?"

**Say Thank You:** Always, always say thank you. Send handwritten cards and have the teens sign them. Invite those who have donated to you to a dinner afterwards and have the teens present what they experienced. Send a thank you card with a group picture at the event. Personalize the thank you. In all things, give thanks. Even if it is showing gratitude that your community members prayed for you. In all things, give thanks.